FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2022, 11:45 a.m.

Statement Regarding Removal of COVID-19 Mandates in Manitoba

The organizers of Winnipeg Freedom Convoy released the following statement on Feb. 14, 2022:

We would like to thank the Province of Manitoba for working toward reducing division among our families and communities through their announcement of a clear timeline for lifting COVID-19 mandates over the next few weeks. The past two years have been difficult for all Manitobans as we have navigated our way through the challenges of a global pandemic. The province's announcement is demonstrative of an approach that is evidence-based and allows us to begin building bridges and healing divisions as we learn to live with COVID-19.

Many of us who are part of Winnipeg Freedom Convoy are small business owners, entrepreneurs and long-distance haulers. We are also mothers, fathers, grandparents and community members who do not want to create any more disruption than is necessary to have our voices heard. After the Province of Manitoba's announcement outlining clear end dates for the lifting of COVID-19 mandates, the organizational team of Winnipeg Freedom Convoy decided on Sunday evening, February 13, 2022, that the Manitoba Legislature is no longer the most appropriate location for our advocacy. Many of our organizational team have returned to their families to focus on healing their communities.

However, there are continued concerns with the Federal COVID-19 mandates that remain in place. Those whose livelihoods have been impacted by Federal travel mandates still have no jobs to return to and their voices need to be heard. At this point, a number of long-distance haulers are planning to remain on site at the Manitoba Legislative Building while further reducing disruptions to residents in the area, and organization of that protest will shift to a new team.

The words and inactions of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have been an embarrassment at the international level and do not reflect what it means to be Canadian. We call on the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament to enact true leadership by ending Federal COVID-19 mandates and beginning the process of

healing so that Canada can rebuild its global reputation as a country that exemplifies our cherished values of tolerance, diversity and civility.

While the Winnipeg Freedom Convoy organization will shift to a new team, we would also like to share some of the faces and voices of the past week with you: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-4QLV-oxig.

Our thanks to the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Police Service for their co-operation in facilitating the peaceful protest at the Manitoba Legislative Building. History will remember the peacemakers.